



The Power of Sharing VA-DoD Conference

Federal Policy Updates - OMB/GAO, Congressional Issues and Legislation

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Overview

- Legislation for the future CAPT James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, North Chicago
- Office of Management & Budget Performance Reporting
- Government Accountability Office Reports
- Overview of Pending Legislation



Pending Legislation - Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center



- Allows Navy to transfer the new ambulatory care center and personal property/equipment to the VA
- It designates the facility as a joint use facility
- It allows for reversion (transfer back to Navy) during the first 5 years after the transfer to VA
 - If ever the facility is determined to be excess
 - If the SECDEF, SECNAV and SECVA jointly determine that the integration should not continue



Pending Legislation - Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center



- Allows for transfer of civilian personnel
 - Transfers civilian employee positions and the incumbents in those positions
 - Must be done in a manner which will not result in reduction in pay, grade, employment progression or change in employment status for those who have completed or are completing a one-year probationary period
 - Extends Title 5 collective bargaining rights to transferred employees for a two-year pilot period



Pending Legislation - Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center



- Continuation of civilian personnel matters:
 - At the close of the pilot period, the Secretary VA will consult with SECNAV and SECDEF on whether the pilot shall be terminated, modified or kept in effect
 - Recognize transferred physician's and dentist's total number of years of service as a physician or dentist in the Dept. of Navy for purposes of calculating the employee's rate of base pay
 - Preserve transferred employees seniority to the extent practicable
- DoD retains the authority to employ civilian personnel at the FHCC if the SECNAV determines it is necessary to meet mission requirements



Pending Legislation - Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center



- Establishment of Treasury Fund and Collection Authority
 - Creates a treasury fund for operations of the JALFHCC
 - Funds will remain available for one year, with 10% available for up to two years
 - Includes capital equipment, real property maintenance and minor construction projects
 - Includes implementation of an integrated financial reconciliation process and allows for independent review of financial process
 - Allows third party collections to be available for use by JALFHCC



Pending Legislation - Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center



- Authorizes the JALFHCC to be deemed a facility of the uniformed services so that:
 - Priority access can be integrated taking into account categories of beneficiaries, enrollment status, etc.
 - Incorporate any resource-related limitations for access in order to administer space-available care



OMB- President's Management Agenda



- Under previous administration, OMB required quarterly progress reports on VA-DoD collaboration
 - Part of the government-wide PMA
 - Goals were derived from the DoD-VA Joint Strategic Plan
- PMA has been discontinued, but expect some type of performance reporting to be implemented



GAO Section Overview



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- Government Accountability Office (GAO) Role in Public Policy
 - Areas of Focus and Reports Submitted to Congress in Past Year
 - Ongoing Audits



GAO Public Policy Role



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- **GAO is the investigatory body of Congress**
 - **Work is specifically at the request of members or a committee**
 - **Reports and Testimony**
 - **VA/DoD is a major area of interest to both the VA and Armed Services Committees in House and Senate**



Reports

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- **10 Reports Published in Past 14 Months**
 - Leadership
 - Traumatic Brain Injury
 - Interoperable Electronic Health Record
 - Joint Ventures
 - Disability Evaluation System
 - **3 Testimonies**
 - Recovering Servicemembers Transition
 - Interoperable Electronic Health Record



Findings in General



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- GAO has typically found that VA/DoD are making “significant progress” to improve programs and processes
 - GAO has also typically found that there continues to be opportunities for improvement in almost every operational area
 - For more information: www.gao.gov



Ongoing Audits



- **4 Ongoing Audits**

- Seamless Coordination of Benefits is the emphasis
- Interoperable Electronic Health Record



Overview of Pending Legislation



- Areas of Interest and Emphasis
 - Seamless Transition
 - Evaluation for Specific Medical Conditions Related to Service
 - Focus on Mental/Traumatic Conditions
 - Data and Records Transfer
 - Outreach
 - Telehealth and Tele-mental Health
- Pending Bills with DoD and VHA Components
- Proposals for DoD/VHA Sharing



Overview of Pending Legislation



- Seamless Transition
 - HR 1308 – Veterans Mental Health Screening and Assessment Act
 - HR 2058 (S. 711) – Post-Deployment Health Assessment Act



Overview of Pending Legislation



- Evaluation for Specific Medical Conditions Related to Service
 - HR 1335 – DoD, with HHS and VA, to Evaluate the Effectiveness of TBI Treatments
 - HR 2389 (S. 642) – Health Care for Members of the Armed Forces Exposed to Chemical Hazards Act
 - HR 2506 – Veterans Hearing and Assessment Act



Overview of Pending Legislation



- Focus on Mental/Traumatic Conditions
 - HR 840 – Military Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Act
 - S. 459 – Supporting Uniformed Personnel by Providing Oversight and Relevant Treatment (SUPPORT) for Substance Use Disorders Act



Overview of Pending Legislation



- Data and Records Transfer
 - HR 1681 - Veterans Transitional Assistance Act
 - HR 1872 - Secure Electronic Military Separation Act



Overview of Pending Legislation



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- Outreach
 - HR 1902 (S. 1109) – Providing Real Outreach to Veterans Act



Overview of Pending Legislation



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- Telehealth and Tele-mental Health
 - HR 667 – Heroes at Home Act